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WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT  
HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT AND  
WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health  
and Public Health Inspectors  
of the Districts

for the year

1960





THE CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN, HATFIELD RURAL  
AND WELWYN RURAL DISTRICTS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your Districts for the year 1960. While dealing mainly with the environmental health services for which the Councils as Local Sanitary Authorities are responsible, a brief account of the related personal and social health services of the County Council has, as in previous years, been included.

No major factor has disturbed the high standard of health enjoyed throughout the three Districts during the year, the standardised birth, death and infant mortality rates comparing favourably with the national rates with the exception of the high infant mortality rate for Welwyn Rural District. The latter is probably fortuitous as wide variation can occur in the rate when dependent upon relatively small numbers.

I am pleased to report a further year of freedom from major infectious disease including smallpox, diphtheria and poliomyelitis. Measles was prevalent among young children throughout the year, the resulting debility probably accounting for the rise in whooping cough. The disease is highly infectious among nursery and primary school groups often causing general ill health with chest and nasopharyngeal troubles just at the time when the young child is adjusting to contact outside the home. The development of an effective vaccine against measles is already under way, and it is to be hoped that we shall soon have the means to modify and reduce the recurring biennial outbreaks. No outbreaks of food poisoning or enteritis infection occurred in the districts during the year although some mild sonne dysentery, mainly of familial spread, received the attention of practitioners and the Health Departments in the Spring.

The Radioactive Substances Act, 1960 provides more effective control over the disposal of radioactive waste by requiring the registration of casual users of radioactivity, authorisation for waste disposal and prescribed standards to be followed in such disposal. The Government has, in the 1960 Act, established central control and for this has been criticised, but the need for unified controls and standards and the present scarcity of trained specialists in radiation protection underlie the decision. On the other hand each local authority rightly feels that it is responsible for the health and safety of those within its area. It will be consulted and used under the 1960 Act, but



cannot within that framework act as an independent assessor of radiation risk. Where such risk is concerned the Local Authority can only rely upon central reassurance, which some Authorities feel is less than satisfactory. While the Act strengthens the hands of Local Authorities by the detailed information they will receive concerning local radiation activities, the Government could well provide more precise guidance regarding the local disposal of small quantities of radioactive waste.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 ensures that the tenant of a caravan site can in future expect to be provided with reasonable amenities and living conditions for his family in return for the rent he pays. Each Rural District has given much time to considering the conditions to be imposed in their areas to ensure that all caravan sites are properly equipped and run, and that essential sanitary and washing facilities are provided. The Act will undoubtedly place a considerable burden on the Public Health Inspectors and the Surveyors' staffs to ensure that the requirements of the Councils are met as speedily as possible.

Side by side with the continued development of the two New Towns, steady progress has been maintained by each Council in promoting the improvement of older properties in their districts. In addition to the discretionary grants available for a wide range of improvements to enable houses built before 1945 to be thoroughly modernised, applications for the new standard grants introduced in 1959 to assist in the provision of certain standard amenities, are now being approved. Each Council has prepared new housing schemes which include special provision for the elderly in flats and bungalows which will go some way to meet the increasing need for these smaller units.

The Public Health Inspectors have given much of their time to the supervision of food premises, canteens and restaurants in each district and have an increasing number of day to day problems arising in the varied industrial units, often sited in close proximity to residential properties. Their work is varied and interesting, each Inspector being encouraged to develop his own special interest in a particular branch of his work.

In conclusion, I must again express my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance given by the Clerks and other Officers of the respective District Councils, and especially to the Public Health Inspectors who have helped me by carrying out much detailed work in addition to their routine duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. TAYLOR

August 1961.

Medical Officer of Health.



WELWYN      GARDEN      CITY      URBAN  
DISTRICT      COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health and of the  
Public Health Inspector for 1960.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

M. STOCKDALE, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

J. Y. ANDERSON, M.R.SAN.I.

Rodent Operative:

E. J. THOMAS.

Clerks:

Mrs. E. R. GEORGE.

A. A. W. CALLABY.



## WELWYN GARDEN CITY SECTION

### Section A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	4,231
Population (mid-year 1960 estimated by the Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	32,570
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	10,293
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	£781,576
Product of a penny rate, 1960-61	...	...	...	...	...	£3,125

Welwyn Garden City, the second and largest Garden City in Hertfordshire was founded in 1920 by Ebenezer Howard and a small group of pioneers in practical town planning. The earliest development based on the experience gained at Letchworth combines the planned open lay-out in the grand manner of Parkway and the Campus with the development of residential, commercial and industrial areas since continued and extended by the Council and Development Corporation as a New Town. The well laid-out homes, fine schools and facilities for the widest range of social activities and interests, provide a healthful and convenient way of life for all ages and sections of the community at work and leisure. The present building programmes of the Council and Development Corporation continue the early tradition in the outlying development schemes, new factory premises and central administrative and commercial buildings.

#### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	92	74	166
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Number	361	385	746
Rate per 1000 population			22.9
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			3.8
STILLBIRTHS:			
Number	2	3	5
Rate per 1000 total live and still births			6.7
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS			751
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	3	3	6
INFANT MORTALITY RATES:			
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births			8.0
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			8.3
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "			NIL

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	5.3
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	5.3
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	11.9
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)	
Number of deaths	1
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	1.3

### Deaths:

No major factors affected the mortality rate for the year. Deaths from coronary heart disease and road traffic accidents remain high. Analysis of the deaths from cancer shows that ten persons died from cancer of the lungs and bronchus.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past 5 years</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ... ..	-	-	-	-
Cancer, Malignant disease ...	16	13	29	32
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis ... ..	9	12	21	20
Heart Diseases ... ..	31	22	53	46
Other circulatory diseases ...	1	5	6	9
Leukaemia ... ..	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ... ..	3	6	9	7
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases ... ..	5	3	8	9
Ulcer of the stomach, etc. ...	2	-	2	1
Road Traffic and Other accidents	8	2	10	8
Diabetes ... ..	-	1	1	1
Suicide ... ..	4	-	4	4
Congenital Malformation ...	-	1	1	1
Other defined causes ...	13	9	22	19
	<u>92</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>166</u>	

### Analysis of the deaths from cancer:-

Respiratory tract ... ..	10
Alimentary tract and liver	5
Breast and uterus ... ..	4
Others ... ..	10



## Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1956 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1960. Each compares favourably with the corresponding rate for the country. The infant mortality rate usually regarded as a sensitive index of the social conditions of an area is noteworthy, being the lowest recorded for the town and well below the corresponding national and county rates.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.	Area Comparability Factor for Births.	Standardised Birth Rate.	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths.	Standardised Death Rate.	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births.
1956	24.2	0.80	19.4	7.0	1.76	12.3	18.96
1957	23.7	0.79	18.7	5.9	1.81	10.8	13.5
1958	26.49	0.78	20.6	5.7	1.85	10.5	10.16
1959	22.86	0.77	17.6	5.8	1.88	10.9	15.4
1960	22.9	0.77	17.6	5.1	1.90	9.6	8.0
England and Wales 1960			17.1			11.5	22.0

## Section B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The County Council is responsible for the administration of the personal health services in the town, embracing maternity and child welfare, school health service, health visiting, home nursing and the home help service. Reference should be made to the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer for 1960 for detailed information on the development of these services.

### CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

#### Health Centre, Cole Green Lane

Ante and Post Natal ... Friday, 2-4 p.m.

Infant Welfare ... Monday, 2-4 p.m; Tuesday 9.30 a.m.  
- 11.30 a.m. and 2-4 p.m.  
Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.

Dental and Orthodontic	)	
	)	
Ophthalmic	)	
	)	
Speech Therapy	)	
	)	By Appointment
Child Development	)	
	)	
Child Guidance	)	
	)	
Orthoptic	)	

#### Lawrence Hall, Applecroft Road

Infant Welfare ... Wednesday 2-4 p.m.  
Thursday 2-4 p.m. (Doctor's session)

Child Development ... By Appointment

#### Mobile Clinic - Haymeads

Infant Welfare ... 1st and 3rd Thursday,  
9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

#### Scout Hut, Great Dell

Infant Welfare ... Wednesday, 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Ante and Post Natal ... Friday, 2-4 p.m.



### Midwifery Services:

The Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital at Peartree continues to maintain a high standard of midwifery in the Town, the hospital being recognised as a Part II Training Centre for midwives. Specialist advice and treatment are readily available at the hospital for difficult or complicated maternity cases.

Five District Nurse/Midwives are now employed by the County Council for home confinements in Welwyn Garden City, weekly ante natal and post natal sessions being held at the Health Centre on Friday afternoons by the midwives for the examination and supervision of domiciliary midwifery cases. Domiciliary cases are delivered at home by the family doctor with the midwife in attendance as maternity nurse, or by the midwife herself at the wish of the patient and doctor. The pupil midwives during their period of training at the Maternity Hospital and on the District, work under the supervision of the midwives.

The priority scheme for hospital delivery on obstetric or social grounds is working satisfactorily and the Maternity Services Liaison Sub-Committee recently set up by the Hospital Management Committee with representatives from the three branches of the Health Service will promote good working relationships in the hospital and domiciliary maternity arrangements and between the Obstetricians, Doctors and Midwives.

### Nursing Services:

At present eight Health Visitors, three Home Nurses and five District Nurse/Midwives provide a comprehensive nursing service for the town. The Health Visitors undertake school health work in addition to their clinic duties, health visiting and after care visits in the home. Valuable assistance is rendered at the clinics by the voluntary workers who keep the registers, weigh and measure the children, sell proprietary infant foods and vitamin preparations, and generally release the doctor and health visitor for more specialised duties.

### Medical Loan Depot:

A medical loan depot staffed by members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade (Divisional Superintendent R.H. Buteux) on behalf of the County Council is situated on each side of the town for the loan of many items of medical equipment required for the nursing of sick and injured persons in the home. Application for the loan of equipment should be made at the following times:-



Health Centre, Gooseacre ... Monday, Wednesday and  
Friday, 7 - 8 p.m.

Trevelyan House,  
Church Road ... Monday - Friday 8 p.m.

### School Health Service:

The medical inspection of children in maintained schools in the prescribed age groups, namely 5, 11 and 14 years, and in addition the 8 year old group, was completed during the year. Reference should be made to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer on the School Health Service, 1960 for detailed information.

### Welfare Foods:

National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice and Vitamin A and D tablets can be obtained at all Child Welfare Centres and also at the following places:-

Gooseacre Health Centre ... Monday, Wednesday, Friday,  
9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and  
2 - 5 p.m.

Tuesday, 9.30 a.m. -  
11.30 a.m. and 2 - 4 p.m.

W.V.S. Stonehills House ... Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.

Monday - Friday, 10.30 a.m.  
- 12 noon.

Thursday, 2 - 4 p.m.

The vitamin supplements are now issued without coupons for the use of expectant and nursing mothers, children up to the age of five years and one month, and handicapped children. The new prices are:-

Concentrated orange juice	...	1s.6d.	per bottle
Cod liver oil	...	1s.0d.	" "
Vitamin A and D tablets	...	6d.	per packet of 25.

### Immunisation and Vaccination:

The majority of parents now ensure that their children are protected against infectious diseases by immunisation and vaccination. Returns from medical practitioners and clinics show that over 80% of children are protected against diphtheria and that almost as many have received at least two injections against poliomyelitis.



With the change to combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation given during the first six months in infancy, a third injection is now recommended at 15-18 months to maintain protection until the final boost injection at school entry.

The following timetable for the various immunisation and vaccination injections has been adopted throughout the Country:-

Approx. Age	Vaccine	Interval
2-6 months	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough 1st)	One month  or  more
	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough 2nd)	
	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough 3rd)	
7-10 months	POLIOMYELITIS 1st	
	POLIOMYELITIS 2nd	
Up to 2 yrs	SMALLPOX	-
15-18 months	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough Booster	-
	POLIOMYELITIS 3rd	
School entry	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus Booster	-
	POLIOMYELITIS 4th	
13 years plus	TUBERCULOSIS (B.C.G)	-

### Home Help Service

The demands upon the Home Help Service continue to increase particularly in the case of the elderly, while the special needs of mothers during the lying in period, and long term illness receive close attention.

Each Home Help gives such time as she can spare from the needs of her own home, to this rewarding service to the community. At times the organiser is hard pressed to provide the help needed by the elderly and more recruits from any area of the town are urgently required.



Mrs. E.R.Dawson, who so ably built up the service in the Town over the past thirteen years, retired at the end of the year and Mrs. J.M.Cosgreave has now taken over the duties of Divisional Home Help Organiser at The Health Centre, Cole Green Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Telephone Welwyn Garden 22190.

#### Mental Health Service.

The link between Hill End Hospital and the town was well maintained throughout the year with out-patient consultation sessions held at the Cottage Hospital and Gooseacre Health Centre. Early in the year the Tuesday Club was established at the British Legion Hall by the initiative of the Standing Conference of Womens Organisations and the Hill End staff. The Club meets monthly with an active membership of forty nine including twenty five patients or ex-patients and nine relatives.

There is a growing interest and participation in mental health work among medical practitioners, the Local Health Authority staff and voluntary organisations in the town to the great benefit of those in need of advice and support. During the present shortage of specialised social workers, Health Visitors have played a more active role in early preventive work and after care than in most other areas of the County. Reference should be made to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer for 1960 for more detailed accounts of the Mental Health Services.

#### Day Nursery, Woodhall Lane.

A small unit taking 40 children for long or short term stay depending upon needs of the family. Application should be made directly to the Matron, Mrs.B.Squires (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 23692).

#### Priorities for admission:-

- (1) Children of Widows or Widowers.
- (2) Children of Unmarried Mothers.
- (3) Children of deserted Wives or Husbands.
- (4) Children of Parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement, i.e. mental illness, tuberculosis, etc.
- (5) Children of Parents in Prison.
- (6) Temporary Cases, e.g. Mother's illness or confinement.
- (7) Children recommended by Doctor or Health Visitor for temporary help, i.e. children from problem families, emotional difficulties and bad housing conditions.

The new Day Nursery with 40 places to be sited adjacent to the Health Centre in Cole Green Lane was approved by the County Council during the year and detailed drawings prepared.



### Ambulance Service.

The ambulances of the County Ambulance Brigade attached to the Welwyn Garden City Station operate in conjunction with the Fire Brigade to maintain a 24 hour cover and deal with approximately 2,000 calls annually. Both vehicles are equipped with short-wave radio to conform with the County's Radio Control Scheme and can be mobilised by transmitter stations in St. Albans and Hertford.

The Hospital Car Service continues to give steady support particularly for transporting persons with minor injuries and illness who are unable to travel by public transport, thus relieving the ambulance for more urgent work.

There has been a further substantial increase in the demands on the Ambulance Service as compared with the previous year, and the public are requested to make use of public transport or private cars where practical.

### Old People's Welfare.

The Old Folk's Club at their premises in Woodhall Lane has a membership of 200 with a wide variety of amenities and activities for its members, including chiropody, sick visiting and Samaritan Fund, a lending library of some 1,000 books, and a thrift club. Many outings were arranged during the year linking up with other clubs from neighbouring towns and local events of interest.

The chiropody sessions on Monday evenings are proving increasingly popular, the cost of treatment to the members remaining at 2s.6d with financial aid from the County Council. The annual At Home in May, and Christmas Party are both very popular functions with the members, and it is pleasant to see the support that the Club still receives from many interested bodies in the town, and also the increasing part which the old people themselves play in arranging their Club activities.

The Churches, W.V.S., Alice Glyn Trust and other organisations render valuable service in visiting old folk in their homes, and in this sphere there is a close link with the work of the Health Visitors, Home Nurses and Home Helps. The meals-on-wheels service continues to provide hot meals twice weekly to some twenty elderly persons in their homes.

### Hospital Facilities.

Steady progress has been maintained in building the new General Hospital on its site in Howlands during the year, the shell of the main ward blocks now nearing completion. Ministry approval of the layout of the residential and ancilliary blocks has been obtained and the building of this commenced so that they will be completed with the main building in 1963.



The equipping and commissioning of a new General Hospital of this size will undoubtedly prove a major task for the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, but in this I am sure they will have the active support and interest of each member of the public and of local bodies in the two towns. The Matron, Secretary and certain other key technical officers have now been appointed and are already very busily engaged with the technical officers of the Regional Hospital Board.

The resources of the Cottage Hospital are severely strained particularly to meet the increasing demand for out-patient and casualty services until the new hospital is opened, credit being due to the medical, nursing and administrative staff who maintain a high standard of service while working in cramped accommodation.

The Mid Herts College of Further Education has commenced a pre-nursing course to assist young girls leaving school wishing to enter the nursing profession.

#### General Medical Services.

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is the body responsible for providing the general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. The Clerk of the Council (Mr. A. E. Short) has his offices at 156-158, Fore Street, Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 3195).

#### Family Planning.

There is an active branch of the Family Planning Association in Welwyn Garden City, holding clinics at the Health Centre, Cole Green Lane. Sessions are held on Monday, 6.30 - 8 p.m., and Thursdays 1.30 - 3 p.m. for advice on childlessness. The fertility clinic on Friday is by appointment only and patients must be referred through their own private doctor. The Family Planning Association is a voluntary body and small charges are made to the patients to cover expenses. Enquiries are welcomed and should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. L. O. Bowmer, 5, Aldock, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 22270).

#### Marriage Guidance.

The Mid Herts Marriage Guidance Council, Honorary Secretary Mrs. A. D. Mitchell, 22, Guessens Road, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 25040) continues to build up its work both in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield.

In addition to providing advice and support from trained and experienced Counsellors in times of difficulty, the Council gives guidance to couples before marriage, in association with the work of the Churches and youth organisations.



## Mortuary.

Modern mortuary premises are maintained by the Urban District Council, adjacent to the Council Offices. 33 bodies were received during the year and 20 post mortem examinations were carried out at the order of the district coroner.

## Laboratory.

The laboratory at Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, undertakes the examination of milk and other specimens required by medical practitioners and the Public Health Department. Larger scale facilities on an epidemiological basis, and for the examination of ice cream samples are available at the Regional Public Health Laboratory, Luton. Supplies of diphtheria immunisation material, diphtheria anti-toxin and measles globulins are available to practitioners in the town on request, and the Health Department is also the centre to which practitioners may bring in specimens or materials requiring laboratory examination.

Regular monthly reports are received from the Lee Valley Water Company following chemical and bacteriological examination of the public water supply. My thanks are due to Mr. Harris, Chief Bacteriologist for his ever ready co-operation in providing full details of particular samples, on request.

## Section C - INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year:-

Scarlet Fever	34	Diphtheria	-	Nil
Whooping Cough	51	Poliomyelitis	-	Nil
Measles	751	Erysipelas	-	2
Pneumonia	19	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	3
Dysentery	214	Puerperal Pyrexia	-	14

A year with more minor infectious illness affecting the young pre-school children than in recent years. Measles was particularly prevalent in all parts of the town early in the year, the resulting debility probably being a factor in causing the increase in whooping cough. The cases of scarlet fever were mild in character responding rapidly to treatment at home with no outbreaks affecting schools or other institutions. Mild enteritis of the sonne type was prevalent in the Spring among families in the Knightsfield and Howlands areas, notifications falling off rapidly later in the summer. The cases of puerperal pyrexia relate to technical notifications from the Peartree Maternity Hospital and were of little clinical significance. There were no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria during the year.

### Tuberculosis.

The steady decline in both the notification and deaths from tuberculosis throughout the County continues. There were in Welwyn Garden City 8 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis discovered in 1960 giving an attack rate of 0.23 which compares favourably with the rate of 0.40 per 1,000 for the Urban communities in the County. There were no deaths. An increasing proportion of the new cases notified are early infections which respond well to medical treatment, many only needing short periods in hospital followed by continued treatment and observation at home. Five notified cases transferred into the town, mainly from the London area during the year, the majority being quiescent cases under observation following medical treatment.

Hospital and sanatorium facilities are readily available so that when an active case with positive sputum is detected the patient can be promptly admitted to hospital for treatment until the sputum is negative and the patient therefore non-infective in the community.

The Housing Committees of the Council and Development Corporation continue to give priority to persons with pulmonary tuberculosis where the living conditions are unsatisfactory in spite of the tight housing situation resulting from the stop in Council house building.

The Mass Radiography Unit of the North West Metropolitan



Regional Hospital Board visits industrial firms in the town at approximately three year intervals, but Mass Radiography for the general public is tending to be discontinued owing to the very few cases of pulmonary tuberculosis or other abnormalities disclosed. On the other hand discussions are now taking place with the Director of the Unit to improve the facilities available to general practitioners for obtaining chest X-rays in the town.

B.C.G. protection of school children aged 13 years and over is now more generally accepted by parents. This year 710 children in Welwyn Garden City received the protecting inoculation.

Housing.

No houses were built by the Council during the year so that it was only possible to house applicants in casual vacancies arising from time to time. Towards the end of the year a start was made with Housing Scheme No.18 which will provide 262 dwellings (including 40 old person's flats) and 167 garages. The Council decided to demolish 100 aluminium temporary prefabs, and re-house the tenants of these in conjunction with the letting of No.18 scheme. The Architect was instructed to prepare plans for the early re-development of the prefab site with permanent houses and old person's bungalows and flats.

The Council considered their Points Scheme for the letting of houses and flats, and having regard to the large waiting list and the shortage of available accommodation, decided to retain the residential qualification of residence in Welwyn Garden City prior to 1st January, 1957, before applications would be admitted to the priority list.

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the following figures:-

			<u>As at</u> <u>31.12.60</u>
Number of houses owned by the Council	...		2,581
Number of temporary bungalows	...	...	150
Number of families housed during year	...		48
Number of housing applicants:-			
Priority grades (resident pre 1957)	...		409
Non-Priority grades (resident after 1957)			139
Engaged couples	...	...	274
Number of applications received during year			
		(all grades)	258
Number of applicants for garages	...	...	214

Good progress was made by the Development Corporation in the schemes in the N.W. area of the town, a total of 350 houses and 12 flats being completed and occupied during the year.



## Section D - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### 1. WATER SUPPLY:

The Council's Water Undertaking was taken over by the Lee Valley Water Company as from 1st April, 1960. The Chief Engineer to the Company agreed to send regular reports in summary form of the quality of the water supplied to this district. During 1960, nine reports have been received from the Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Lee Valley Water Company. The table summarises these:-

<u>Month obtained</u>	<u>Total Samples</u>	<u>Examined Bacteriologically</u>	<u>Examined Chemically</u>
April	12	11	1
May	20	17	3
June	17	15	2
July	12	11	1
August	12	10	2
September	8	7	1
October	16	12	4
November	8	8	-
December	12	10	2

All the 117 samples listed were considered to conform to the standard of purity considered suitable for a public supply.

#### Routine Water Sampling by the Public Health Department.

As a further check on the public water supply, a total of 17 samples were obtained. The samples had been previously chlorinated and were in the same condition as they would be when reaching the domestic supply. All were examined bacteriologically and reported on as being clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity indicative of wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

### 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:

The town is served on the separate system.

Foul sewage is gathered by tributary sewers to the main trunk sewer which traverses the town from South West to North East and since 1st April, 1959, has discharged into a new outfall sewer in the Black Fan Valley and thence via the Mimram Valley Outfall Sewer to the Middle Lea Regional Works at Ryemeads.



The Council's existing works in the Black Fan Valley have been demolished and the whole site is to be converted to public parkland in conjunction with new playing fields to the East of the valley.

Surface water is drained to the valleys of the Lea and Mimram and during operations in Black Fan Valley the opportunity is being taken to improve the surface water outfall which discharges through the site of the sewage works. It is hoped to retain two of the three lagoons in the valley, which have been cleared of sludge, and if the surface water discharge is sufficient to supply them, they should add to the amenities of the area.

### Rivers and Streams.

A portion of the River Mimram, half mile (approximately) runs through the northern portion of the district, and a portion of the Lea, half mile (approximately) runs through the southern portion of the district.

### 3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:

The closet accommodation is on the water carriage system with the exception of three cottages (rural in character) on the outskirts of the district, where the pail system is in operation, and where the occupants arrange to bury the contents in their gardens.

- |  |     |     |     |    |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (a) Number of pail closets abolished; water closets installed and connected to a water carriage system during recent years | ... | ... | ... | 63 |
| (b) Number of pail closets remaining at the end of 1960  | ... | ... | ... | 3  |

### 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING:

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal. All premises have galvanised metal dustbins for the deposit of refuse. The provision of galvanised iron dustbins is enforced under Section 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council Act, 1932. House refuse is collected weekly in covered motor vehicles by the Council's Refuse Collection Service.

House refuse is tipped at a dump near Stanborough Lane and is disposed of by controlled tipping. Any rats or mice which gain access to the dump or its surroundings are destroyed by the Public Health Department. Only slight infestations required attention during the year.

(b) Street Cleansing. This is controlled by the Surveyor.

(c) Gully Cleansing. All gullies for which the Council



are responsible are regularly emptied and flushed by Contract Gully Cleansing Limited who are employed by the Council under contract for this purpose.

(d) Dustbins. The Council's Refuse Collection Service notifies the Public Health Department of any defective dustbins they find at houses and other dwellings. One hundred and twelve new bins were provided during the year on owners being requested to do so. Details are as follows:-

Urban District Council	...	...	18
Development Corporation	...	...	41
Other Owners	...	...	53

## 5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:

(a) Number and nature of Inspections made during the year:-

Inspections of Factories (with mechanical power)	...	105
" " " (without mechanical power)	...	21
" " Workplaces	...	65
" " Milk Depots	...	12
" " Licensed Premises	...	14
Surveys and visits re Infested Premises (rats and mice)	2,554	
Inspections of Shops	...	147
" re Insect Pests (excluding bed bugs)	...	185
" of Dwellings (not otherwise included)	...	189
" of Schools	...	35
Visits to Public Health Laboratories	...	137
Inspections of Dwellinghouses under Housing Act, 1957	...	39

Special Inspections or Visits made re:-

Drainage	...	43
Infectious Diseases (including food poisoning)	...	678
Smoke observations	...	148
Council Property (excluding houses)	...	53
Destruction of Bed Bugs	...	18
Water Supply	...	20
Dustbins	...	101
Accumulations of Refuse	...	254
Council Property	...	28
Miscellaneous Visits	...	79

(b) Number of Informal Notices served ... 99

(c) Number of Informal Notices:-

98 were complied with and one was outstanding.

## 6. (a) SHOPS:

There are one hundred and twenty five shops in the district. One hundred and forty seven inspections of shops have been made.

Plans of new shops are examined by the Health Department



before they are approved, and representations made to the proposers where it appears that either the plans do not conform with the Public Health Act, 1936, or that structural alterations would be necessary on the shop becoming occupied, because the shops did not comply with the Shops Act, 1950, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The following action, under the Public Health Act, 1936, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, or the Shops Act, 1950, was taken:-

				<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	9	9
Sanitary Defects	...	...	...	9	9
Other Nuisances or Defects	...	...	...	24	22

Twenty four Informal Notices were served and twenty two Informal Notices were complied with.

The necessity for providing adequate facilities for ventilation in shops in the planning stage is always before the Department. Unfortunately considerable opposition regarding the provisions considered necessary has been met with. In a new planned town provision for natural ventilation by windows or other means which also provide natural light, is regarded as as necessity and is easily practicable. Pressure is brought in an endeavour to secure this provision but unfortunately neither the Shop Act law nor the Building Byelaws are sufficiently strong to secure enforcement.

#### (b) OFFICES:

All offices in the district are of modern construction and have a high standard of fitness. Separate sanitary conveniences are provided in all cases where both sexes are employed. The conditions found regarding lighting and cleanliness are satisfactory. All buildings in the town, with few exceptions, are constructed without basements. Basement rooms are not used for clerical employment.

#### 7. SMOKE ABATEMENT:

Smoke observations made	...	...	...	148
Smoke nuisances or smoke contraventions	...	...	...	18

During the year continuous observations were made in the industrial area and the appreciable improvement in the clearness of the air mentioned in the last report has been maintained.

#### Lead Dross Smelting Process.

The large automatic Fume Filtration Plant provided by the firm concerned in 1957 at very considerable expense to prevent



smoke and fumes arising from this particular process escaping into the atmosphere has continued to prove most efficient. During the year periodical observations have been made of the fume stack connected to the process without any nuisance or contravention being observed therefrom. It is fair to say that a persistent and serious nuisance has been effectively abated.

### General.

Nearly every house is wired for electricity. Cooking is normally carried out on gas or electric stoves. Domestic consumption of electricity is believed to be proportionately as high as anywhere in the country.

In the town's factories, electricity is believed, in nearly all instances, to provide the motive power. Steam or oil boilers are used for heating or trade processes only.

Whilst the atmosphere of Welwyn Garden City is comparatively unpolluted, improvement is possible and the Council is determined that the improvement so far secured shall be continued.

### 8. SWIMMING POOL:

The Lea Valley Open Air Swimming Pool is administered by the Council.

The continuous systems of chlorination and filtration have continued to prove their worth. In spite of heavy bathing loads the pool water was found to be clear and bright and of satisfactory cleanliness.

Frequent tests are made with the Lovibond Comparator at the Pool to ascertain if the amount of free chlorine present is adequate; this test gives an immediate result showing the amount of chlorine present in parts per million. In addition the Swimming Pool Superintendent adjusts the chlorine dose according to the number of bathers he expects will use the pool and further adjusts it should the number of bathers using the pool indicate that this is necessary.

During the year five samples of water were obtained from the pool and were submitted for bacteriological examination. The Laboratory reports indicated that the five samples were of the highest standard of bacterial purity and they did, in fact, attain the bacteriological standard of a pure drinking water. When obtaining samples it is a pleasure to note the clear and attractive appearance of the water in the pool.

### 9. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS:

Seven houses were found to be infested during the year.



Present day liquid insecticides, applied with care, enable complete destruction to be immediately achieved, providing the operative uses reasonable care. The complete destruction of these insects in the seven houses concerned was achieved without difficulty. The application of liquid insecticides takes up much time. Experimental treatments using smoke generators liberating DDT/Lindane gas have proved time saving and have yielded promising results.

## Section E - HOUSING

### 1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-

(1) (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	33
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	90
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses found not to be fit for human habitation ... ..	21

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices:-

Number of unfit houses rendered fit or in which defects were remedied as a consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	21
--	----

### 3. No action was taken under Statutory Powers during the year.

Section F - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION  
OF FOOD

1. CONTROL OF FOOD

(a) MILK.

(i) General

There are six milk distributors registered, of whom only three occupy milk depots in the area. The major part of the milk sold is produced outside the district.

It is estimated that over ninety per cent of the milk sold in the Garden City has been pasteurised before being retailed.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) (No.3) Order, 1953, provided that all milk sold in the town must be Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested or Sterilised.

(ii) Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations.

During the year twelve inspections were made at milk depots, and a close watch is kept on the handling and distribution of milk. Eight infringements of the Milk and Dairies Regulations were found. Informal notification was made to the distributors concerned and complied with by them.

(iii) Biological Examinations.

The County Council obtains milk samples from Tuberculin Tested and non-designated herds and has them examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus. No report of the presence of either of these organisms has been received during the year.

(iv) Milk Sampling.

Samples of milk are regularly obtained at approximately monthly intervals. The majority of the samples are taken on the public highway from distributors who are delivering milk to the public. This practice enables the cleanliness of milk as delivered to the public to be ascertained. Ninety six samples were obtained and delivered to Hill End Hospital for examination by the prescribed tests. The samples of the various designations obtained were as follows:-

Pasteurised	47	Tuberculin Tested	
Tuberculin Tested	2	(Pasteurised)	35
		Sterilised	12

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, provided that, if at any time the



atmospheric shade temperature at the laboratory in the immediate vicinity of the samples which have been pasteurised exceeds 65°F., the results of the Methylene Blue Test shall be void. The test gives an indication of keeping quality. It is to be deprecated that in the hottest weather, when the application of the test is particularly important, the results are likely to be void and hence this test is likely to have no application during the hottest periods of the year, when it is particularly necessary that it should have application. Although thirty one of the samples were exposed to atmospheric temperatures in excess of the 65°F standard, there were, in fact, only three Methylene Blue failures amongst those samples. These results, though legally void, are indicative of the high bacteriological quality of the twenty eight samples passing this test and provide evidence that it is high time that the legal standard is raised. The twenty eight results also show the great care taken by producers, pasteurisers and distributors in handling the milk which was sampled.

Of the ninety six samples of milk obtained during 1960, ninety two passed all the tests prescribed. This involved a total of one hundred and seventy tests. The remaining four samples gave the following results:-

- (1) One sample of Sterilised Milk failed to pass the Turbidity Test. This is the only failure against the distributor concerned in respect of this class of milk since 1951.
- (2) Three samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk, each of which, whilst passing the Phosplatase test, failed to pass the Methylene Blue test, all three being obtained from one distributor. The tests were void due to shade temperature exceeding the standard prescribed. Informal representation was, however, made to the distributor, pasteuriser and to the Public Health Inspector in whose area the distributor has his premises, with consequent improvement.

(b) ICE CREAM:

The bacterial quality of ice cream has been checked throughout the year with the aid of routine sampling and laboratory examination. A total of forty nine samples were obtained from sixteen retailers and covering four different makes of ice cream being retailed within the district.

<u>Type of Ice Cream</u>	<u>Provisional Grade</u>				<u>Total</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	
	<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>		
Wrapped brickettes . . .	34	-	-	-	34
Wrapped Choc-bars . . .	7	-	-	-	7
Partly wrapped . . .	3	-	-	-	3
Part of previously opened bulk can . . . . .	1	-	-	-	1
Part of previously opened carton . . . . .	1	-	-	-	1
Tubs . . . . .	3	-	-	-	3
	49	-	-	-	49
Percentage Results	100	-	-	-	100

These are excellent results, and give an indication of the awareness of the manufacturers now that the hygienic standards have to be kept high in the production and storage of their products.

### Fruit Lollies

Two samples were obtained from one manufacturer and submitted for bacteriological examination. In both cases the acidity of the products was such that bacterial growth would not occur and the samples were therefore considered satisfactory.

### Cream Lollies

Twenty eight samples of cream lollies, obtained from three different manufacturers, were submitted for bacteriological examination. All the cream lollies submitted had been wrapped by the manufacturers.

Producer	No. of Samples	No. free from Pres.Coli	No. with Pres.Coli only	Dilution of 10 cc	No. containing in addition to Pres.Coli. Faecal Coli		
					10 <sup>in</sup> ml	1.0 ml	0.1 ml
A	11	7	2	1	1	-	-
B	14	10	3	-	-	1	-
C	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>28</u>						

The five samples where Presumptive Coli only were found cannot be considered as unsatisfactory, but rather an indicative of a slight slackening in the hygienic standards of manufacture.



In 1959 the unsatisfactory samples comprised 12½% of the total, therefore this year's figure of 11% on a larger number of samples would appear to show an improvement.

In each case where Faecal Coli were found on examination, the manufacturers were informed so that their plant and methods of manufacture and storage could be examined for possible faults.

Mobile vehicles selling ice cream and lollies are to a certain extent responsible for the apparent increase in the consumption of these commodities. Care is taken to inspect them as often as possible to ensure that no relaxation occurs in the hygienic conditions of storage and sales.

(c) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS, EXCLUDING MILK AND ICE CREAM:

Routine inspection of food in shops was carried out throughout the year, although few cases occur of unsound food being exposed for sale. The Managers of the shops are all aware of the service available to them for collection and disposal of any suspect food, and they take full advantage of it.

The amount of unsound food surrendered during 1960 was 27,060 lbs., an increase of 13,432 lbs. over the figure for 1959. All such foodstuffs surrendered are destroyed in order to prevent the possibility of any being sold as fit for human consumption.

(i) Uncooked Food lbs.

Meat	...	...	...	...	209
Fish	...	...	...	...	649

(ii) Food in Cans

Vegetables	...	...	...	8,883
Meat	...	...	...	8,268
Fruit	...	...	...	3,962
Milk	...	...	...	1,458
Fish	...	...	...	413

(iii) Other Miscellaneous Foods ... 3,218

(d) LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS OF FOOD:

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of food are carried out at:-

Hill End Laboratory, Hill End Hospital,  
St.Albans.

Counties Public Health Laboratories,  
Thresh House, Verulam Street, Gray's  
Inn Road, London, W.C.1.



Public Analyst, 20, Eastcheap, London, E.C.3.

Public Health Laboratory, Luton and Dunstable  
Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton.

(e) ADULTERATION:

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, regarding adulteration are administered by the County Council.

Fifty nine samples of food in common use were taken in Welwyn Garden City during the year by the Sampling Officers of the County Council. The Public Analyst's reports showed that all the samples were genuine. Fifteen samples of fresh milk were obtained and all were found to be genuine. The remaining forty four items sampled covered a wide range of popular foods in daily use and two samples of drugs. Included were various types of sausages, fruit drinks, butter, margarine, tinned soup, etc. The fact that these were found genuine shows that if they had been purchased by a member of the public they would have been of the nature or of the substance or of the quality that the purchaser was legally entitled to expect.

(f) COMPLAINTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC CONCERNING FOOD:

During 1960 a total of eleven complaints were made to the Public Health Department. Five of these cases were found to be unjustified and the remaining six were followed up by direct contact with either the manufacturers or retailer. In each case the complainant was informed of the result of the enquiries and the action taken.

A further two cases occurred where other authorities enquired of this department for details of manufacturers in the Town. Food products from these firms had given rise to complaint in the area of these authorities. Inspections were made of the factory concerned and a full report sent in each case.

(g) VISITS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING FOOD:

Milk Sampling	...	...	...	50
Ice Cream and Iced Lolly Sampling				32
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods				94
Laboratory Visits	...	...		20

2. INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES: (Where more than one principal trade is carried on at one premise, each such trade is separately recorded).

<u>Trades</u>	<u>No. in Town</u>	<u>No. of Visits made</u>
Building Site Canteens	5	6
Industrial "	37	28
School "	18	29



<u>Trades</u>	<u>No. in town</u>	<u>No. of visits made</u>
Cafes and Restaurants	15	12
Licensed Premises	13	13
Food Manufacturers	11	30
Butchers	15	44
Fishmongers	4	10
Grocers	19	46
Greengrocers	12	25
Confectioners	12	14
Miscellaneous Food Premises	11	20
Informal Notices Served	48	
Notices complied with	45	

### 3. MOBILE VEHICLES SELLING FOOD:

These vehicles are now an accepted useful way of trading in the Town because so many housewives have a part-time job and less time to go shopping.

Most of the traders are well known and only minor infringements of the regulations are found on inspection. When a new vehicle is seen by an inspector it is usual practice to examine it and advise the salesman on matters pertaining to his trade and on the law if necessary.

#### Details of inspections carried out

<u>No. inspected</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>	<u>Warning Notices sent</u>	<u>No. of Notices complied with</u>
32	56	12	12

Section G - GENERAL, INCLUDING SUPERVISION OF  
 FACTORIES AND RODENT CONTROL

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES:

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Written</u> <u>Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers</u> <u>Prosecute</u>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
FACTORIES with Mechanical Power	105	15	0
FACTORIES without " "	21	-	0
OTHER PREMISES under the Act	<u>51</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>177</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>0</u>

2. DEFECTS FOUND:

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of Defects</u>		<u>Referred</u> <u>by H.M.</u> <u>Inspector</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>offences in</u> <u>respect of</u> <u>which prose-</u> <u>cutions were</u> <u>instituted</u>
(1)	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	(4)	(5)
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):-				
Insufficient ...	2	2	0	0
Unsuitable or defective ...	17	17	0	0
Not separate for sexes ...	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

3. FACTORIES ACT, 1937:

(a) The occupiers of two local factories distribute work to thirteen local outworkers and also to five outworkers living elsewhere in Hertfordshire and to one outworker in London.

In addition seven local outworkers are employed by firms whose premises are outside the district. This outwork is carried on in clean and satisfactory premises. No cause for complaint has arisen during the year.

(b) Factories - General Information.

All factories in the town are of modern construction and have been built during the past thirty-nine years. Health conditions are generally satisfactory. Infringements are usually of a minor nature.



Plans for new factories or involving alteration of existing factories are submitted to the Public Health Department before they are approved.

The Council is empowered to reject the plans if they do not comply with sections 37, 43 or 59 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Where the plans submitted do not comply, amendments are informally negotiated with the proposers. If agreement is not secured within the statutory period or the statutory period is insufficient to allow negotiation, the plans are rejected. Where there is no legal authority to reject the plans, but the erection or alteration contained in the plans is likely to give rise to contraventions of the Factories Act, 1937, the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, this is pointed out to the proposers, and every endeavour made to secure prior compliance with these Acts.

#### 4. RODENT CONTROL:

##### (a) Administration.

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. A full-time Rodent Operative is employed.

##### (b) Rodent Destruction.

Rats or mice were found on 249 premises and visits were made to ascertain their presence and if found to destroy them. Where premises are serviced under the contract system (for details of which see sub-paragraph (c)) regular visits are made and routine treatments carried out. Normally this results in any rats and mice which are present being destroyed before the management concerned are aware of it.

This results in a virtual absence of complaints from the premises which are serviced. Details of the two hundred and forty nine infestations dealt with are as follows:-

		<u>No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Rats	...	186	1,884
Mice	...	63	670
		<u>249</u>	<u>2,554</u>

Details of the various types of premises found infested were as follows:-

	<u>Local Authority property</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Business and Industrial Premises</u>
No. of premises infested by Rats	5	133	48
No. of premises infested by Mice	<u>1</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>29</u>
Totals	<u>6</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>77</u>

Details of the number of visits paid to the various types of property found infested were as follows:-

					<u>Number of Visits</u>	
					<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>
Business and Commercial Premises	...				862	510
Local Authority Property (excluding houses)	...	...	...	...	77	6
All houses	...	...	...	...	945	154
					<u>1,884</u>	<u>670</u>

Dwellinghouses are treated free, but a charge has to be made for rodent destruction at Commercial and Industrial Premises.

(c) Annual contracts for the destruction of rats and mice are entered into by the Council in respect of Commercial and Industrial Premises. The charge made depends on the size of, and conditions at, the premises concerned. At 31st December, 1960, twenty-nine firms had thirty-one current contracts, covering thirty-two premises, mainly factories, the income from these contracts then being at the rate of £208.10s.0d. a year. In addition to the contract system, the destruction of rats and mice is carried out on request at commercial and industrial premises and charged for as "private works". Charges for this work during 1960 amounted to £54.6s.5d.

#### (d) Sewers.

Test baiting carried out during 1957 in the Council's sewers which convey foul water gave nil results, none of the baits being taken. Previous test baiting in former years also gave negative results. In view of these facts and also because there was no evidence of rats being present in the foul sewers, test baiting was not carried out during 1960.

### 5. INSECT PESTS:

During the year one hundred and nine complaints were received which required personal attention. A total of two hundred and three visits were made to destroy the pests found present.

The table gives an analysis of the pests destroyed by members of the Public Health Department and the number of visits made by them to the infested premises.



<u>Pest</u>				<u>No. of premises affected</u>	<u>No. of Visits made</u>
Fleas	...	...	...	2	6
Ants	...	...	...	1	1
Crickets	...	...	...	1	2
Moths	...	...	...	2	3
Wasps	...	...	...	89	164
Bed Bugs	...	...	...	7	18
Flies	...	...	...	2	2
Bees	...	...	...	1	1
Woodworm	...	...	...	3	5
Miscellaneous Insects			...	1	1
				<u>109</u>	<u>203</u>

### Ants

The Council has instructed that on application free ant powder shall be issued for the destruction of ants in houses and that where personal attention is required a charge of five shillings must be made in respect of each house. Sixteen tenants applied for and were issued with the free powder in order to destroy ants.

In addition free insect powder was supplied to forty nine other tenants to destroy various insect pests where pressure of work or the circumstances of the particular case made personal attention either impossible or unnecessary.

HATFIELD      RURAL      DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health and of the  
Public Health Inspector for 1960.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

C. A. BAILEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

J. CABOURNE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Commenced - 2nd August, 1960

District Public Health Inspectors:

D.G.L. MONTGOMERY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Commenced - 13th June, 1960

J. KEMP, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. - Until April, 1960.

M. HALL, M.A.P.H.I. - Until April, 1960.

Public Health Assistant and Rodent Operative:

L. A. LAWRENCE.

Clerks:

Mrs. J.E.SKILTON.

A.A.W. CALLABY.

## HATFIELD SECTION

### Section A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	21,945
Population (mid year 1960), estimated by the Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	36,390
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1961	...	...	...	...	11,503
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1961	...	...	...	...	£641,630
Product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£2,820

#### Social Conditions:

Hatfield Rural District is an agricultural and residential area extending from the northern perimeter of the outer metropolitan area to the middle of Hertfordshire. Much of the District lies within a designated Green Belt area including the extensive Gascoyne Cecil Estates and the Great Wood of Northaw, thus preserving its rural character and charm. The ancient town of Hatfield, the social and administrative centre of the District, has undergone rapid residential and industrial development as a New Town during the past ten years and includes the main works of the De Havilland Aircraft Company. Limited urban development has also taken place at Brookmans Park, Cuffley and North Mymms.

#### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	152	160	312
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Number	359	366	725
Rate per 1000 population			19.6
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			2.9
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	7	7	14
Rate per 1000 total live and still births			18.9
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS			739
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)			12
INFANT MORTALITY RATES			
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births			16.6
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			17.0
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "			NIL



NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	<u>Total</u> 16.6.
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	12.4
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	31.7
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)	
Number of deaths	NIL
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	NIL

#### Deaths:

No major event affected the mortality rate for the year. Deaths from cancer and road traffic and other accidents continue to rise. Analysis of deaths from cancer shows that 18 persons died from lung cancer in 1960.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u> <u>past 5</u> <u>years</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ... ..	1	-	1	3
Cancer ... ..	29	41	70	53
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis ... ..	30	31	61	53
Leukaemia ... ..	-	2	2	1
Heart Diseases ... ..	46	44	90	80
Other circulatory diseases	5	11	16	14
Pneumonia ... ..	3	3	6	8
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases ... ..	9	9	18	13
Diabetes ... ..	-	2	2	1
Nephritis ... ..	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach etc. ... ..	2	1	3	4
Congenital malformation ... ..	2	2	4	2
Road traffic and other accidents ... ..	13	4	17	10
Suicide ... ..	-	-	-	2
Other defined causes ... ..	12	10	22	26
	<u>152</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>312</u>	<u>-</u>

#### Analysis of the deaths from cancer:-

Respiratory tract ...	18
Alimentary tract and liver	5
Breast and uterus ...	12
Unclassified ... ..	35

## Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1956 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1960. The standardised rates for 1960 compare favourably with the corresponding rates for the country.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births.	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1956	17.46	0.90	15.7	9.6	1.09	10.4	14.8
1957	20.38	0.88	17.93	8.53	1.14	9.72	11.75
1958	19.4	0.87	16.9	8.2	1.09	8.9	16.5
1959	19.2	0.87	16.7	8.8	1.20	10.6	14.8
1960	19.6	0.86	16.8	8.5	1.22	10.4	16.6
England and Wales 1960			17.1			11.5	22.0



## Section B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The personal health services for the district are administered by the County Council, the local health authority for those services under the National Health Service. The Medical Officer of Health of the District is also the Divisional Medical Officer for the County Health Services which facilitates full co-ordination of the various functions.

### CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Work has commenced on the building of the new Queensway Principal Health Centre in Hatfield during the summer. When opened in the Spring of 1962 this Centre will be the main base for the Health and Social Services of the Town.

#### INFANT WELFARE CLINICS:

Civil Defence Hut, St.Albans Road, Hatfield	2 - 4 p.m., Friday (alternating) (Immunisation Session 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. Friday (3rd each month)).
Birchwood Avenue, Hatfield	2 - 4 p.m. Friday (alternating).
Roe Hill House, Hatfield	9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. 2 - 4 p.m. Thursday. (Immunisation session 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. Friday (2nd and 4th each month)).
Hilltop, Hatfield	9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. } 2 - 4 p.m. } Wednesday
Brookmans Park Hotel Annexe	2 - 4 p.m. Monday (1st and 3rd).
The Cabin, Cuffley	2 - 4 p.m. Monday.
Village Hall, Essendon	2 - 4 p.m. Thursday (2nd and 4th).
Memorial Hall, North Mymms	2 - 4 p.m. Thursday.

#### KENNELWOOD, HATFIELD.

Ophthalmic	)
Orthoptic	)
Speech Therapy	) By Appointment
Remedial Exercises	)
Dental and Orthodontic	)

Reference should be made to the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer for 1960 for detailed information on the development of these services.



## WELFARE FOODS:

Welfare Foods, i.e. National Dried Milk, Vitamin A and D Tablets, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice are sold at the Child Welfare Centres, and at 14, St. Albans Road, Hatfield, on Fridays 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

## NURSING SERVICES:

The establishment of Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors has been well maintained apart from temporary shortages resulting from staff changes. The newly developing areas of Hatfield Town continue to make heavy demands on the three branches of the service with a further child welfare session introduced at Hill Top Clinic. An enquiry into the need for a night nursing service in the district has been undertaken on behalf of the County Medical Officer.

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE:

The routine periodic inspection of children in the three prescribed age groups, i.e. 5 years, 11 years and final year at secondary school, was carried out in all maintained schools with an additional group at eight years. Attendances at the special sessions held at Kennelwood Clinic, viz. ophthalmic, orthoptic and speech training were well maintained, with regular dental sessions and a limited programme of dental inspections in schools throughout the District.

## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION:

The number of infants and young children immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough during the year by the family doctor or at the child welfare clinics was very satisfactory, over 80% being protected during their first year. With the combined immunisations the injections are recommended a little earlier commencing at the third month so a boost dose of diphtheria antigen is advised at 18 months, in addition to the later boost dose on starting school life. Much credit is due to the Parents, Doctors, Nurses and Teachers who still play such an active role in ensuring complete freedom from diphtheria.

The poliomyelitis vaccination scheme has also been pressed with vigour, the Ministry extending the age for this vaccination early in the year to all over 40 years of age. In spite of open sessions with the use of the mobile clinic it has not been possible to achieve as high a percentage of protected persons among the older age groups as with the children. At the time of going to print with this report, arrangements are in hand for fourth injections to children aged 5 - 11 inclusive.

Primary vaccination of infants against smallpox is undertaken by practitioners and at the clinics, the numbers increasing steadily each year.



## HOME HELP SERVICE:

The demands upon the Home Help Service have remained about the same as in the previous year, some 400 - 450 hours service in the home being provided weekly. The special needs of the elderly, long term illness and help to mothers in the perinatal period receive close attention. The local organiser has her office at Kennelwood (Telephone Hatfield 2509).

## AMBULANCE SERVICE:

One ambulance and one sitting case car are maintained at the Fire Station in Batterdale, Hatfield, which is manned during the daytime only, by a crew of five fully trained ambulance men. Night cover for the district is provided by the larger station at Welwyn Garden City and other adjoining stations.

The hospital car service supplements the work of the County Ambulance Service in carrying patients to and from hospitals and clinics. Requests should be directed to the Ambulance Station (Telephone: Hatfield 2222).

In view of the great increase in the demands upon the Ambulance Service over the past ten years every effort should be made by the public to restrict requests for ambulance transport or private cars when possible. Except in cases of emergency or accidents, ambulance transport is provided on the recommendation of the doctor or hospital in medical charge of the patient.

## OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE:

The Hatfield District Old People's Welfare Council has continued to give active guidance and support to the seven local clubs which meet regularly in the District. During my occasional visits I am always impressed by the spontaneous spirit of fellowship and good will extended to all by the older members so that the clubs are largely self supporting with the assistance of a small group of loyal voluntary supporters. A wide programme of interests, visits and excursions is arranged for the members while the luncheon clubs in Hatfield are growing in membership.

The meals on wheels scheme was obliged to reduce its activities owing to voluntary workers leaving the District during the year, but following strenuous efforts by the County W.V.S. organisers, the scheme has now been reorganised and strengthened with several new local helpers coming in to assist.

The chiropody arrangements at each club continue to expand with the financial support of the County Council providing an additional stimulus to membership of the clubs and convenient centres for the chiropodist in the District.

Regular weekly meetings at the new centre at Hilltop, South Hatfield, inaugurated during the year have been well supported, some thirty members taking lunch together followed by various club activities during the afternoon.

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is responsible for providing a general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. Mr. A.E.Short is the Clerk of the Council and has offices at 156-158, Fore Street, Hertford. (Telephone Hertford 3195).

#### HEALTH EDUCATION - SAFETY IN THE HOME:

Under the chairmanship of Mrs. W.O.Clark, the Home Safety Sub-Committee organised an intensive publicity week in September although the support given by local shops in displaying posters was disappointing. While the Sub-Committee has found difficulty in arousing local interest and support in Home Safety work, several addresses were given to local organisations illustrated with films, and the Health Visitors continue to stress the special hazards to young children in the home, at the child welfare clinics.

The Public Health Inspectors give much of their time to Health Education over a wide field in particular the education of food handlers in clean food standards, the purity of local water sources and the regulations regarding infectious diseases.



## Section C - INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received from medical practitioners during the year:-

Diphtheria	-	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Whooping Cough	49	Dysentery	10
Measles	116	Puerperal Pyrexia	4
Scarlet Fever	26	Erysipelas	1
Poliomyelitis	-	Pneumonia	6

A year of little note regarding infectious diseases. As in surrounding Districts measles was prevalent among young children early in the year, the resultant debility probably giving rise to the increase in whooping cough. The notifications of scarlet fever refer to mild scattered cases responding rapidly to treatment at home. There were no outbreaks of food poisoning or enteritis, the ten notifications of dysentery relating to small family upsets investigated by the Health Department. There were no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria during the year.

### Tuberculosis:

The register of notifications has been maintained and is constantly reviewed by reference to the records held by the chest physicians and County Medical Officer of Health.

The tuberculosis statistics for the year are as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>N/Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>N/Pul.</u>	
On register at 31st December, 1959	162	11	112	22	307
Removals from the register during the year	4	1	6	-	11
Added to the register during the year	5	-	4	5	14
On register at 31st December, 1960	163	10	110	27	310

Thirteen new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in the District by the Chest Physician during the year, the majority being early cases brought under regular supervision and responding well to medical treatment. The majority of the persons with tuberculosis coming into the district are from the London area, where they have been under treatment and close observation for some time, and are thus non-infective quiescent cases. It is customary for the chest physicians to maintain supervision for five years after all signs of activity in the disease have subsided.

The Chest Clinic at St. Albans City Hospital has its own diagnostic X-ray plant to facilitate the ready supervision of patients and contacts referred to the clinic by medical practitioners. In addition arrangements are now being made by the Mass Radiography Unit for regular weekly visits of a mobile 70 m.m. Chest X-ray Unit for any person referred by practitioners in the district. The necessity for special consideration of the housing needs of tuberculous persons is fully recognised by the Housing Committee of the Council, due priority being given to all such cases represented to the Committee by the Medical Officer of Health. There is close integration of the work of the Chest Clinic and the Tuberculosis Health Visitors with the other social services in the district, especially Home Nursing, Health Visiting and assistance under the Home Help Scheme.

B.C.G. vaccination of 13 year old children was undertaken at schools throughout the District early in the Spring term.



## SECTION D - HOUSING

The following data provided by the Housing Manager relate to the Council's housing estates throughout the District.

(a) Number of properties owned by the Council	...	...	...	2,364
(b) Number of families housed during the year:	...	...	...	232
Direct allocations	...	...	...	170
Exchanges and Transfers	...	...	...	62
(c) Number of applicants on the housing list:	...	...	...	605
Families in shared accommodation and caravans	...	...	...	318
Families in separate accommodation	...	...	...	287

The Council's scheme at Welham Green was completed during the year, and the small scheme of six bungalows at Essendon. In addition to these new Council properties the Development Corporation have assisted by housing an agreed number of applicants on the Council's waiting lists in Corporation houses.

The Development Corporation have made rapid progress in the development of the Oxlease Estate at Hatfield, new houses at Mount Pleasant, and in completing the commercial premises at the Town Centre. A total of 291 houses were completed in Hatfield by the Corporation during the year.

## Section E - CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

### STAFF:

During the year the two Public Health Inspectors, Messrs. Kemp and Hall, obtained appointments with other authorities and the department was, therefore, at full strength for only nine months in 1960. Mr. J. Cabourne commenced duty as Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector on 2nd August and Mr. D.G.L. Montgomery on 13th June.

### WATER:

#### Public Supplies.

The Rural District is unusually well covered by main piped supplies of water. The vast majority of premises are served by the Lee Valley Water Company, until recently known as the Barnet Water Company.

On the perimeter of the district a very small number of premises are connected with neighbouring undertakings at Welwyn Garden City, Hertford, St. Albans (Colne Valley) and the Metropolitan Water Board.

#### Private Supplies.

At the end of the current year there were 23 private supplies serving, as far as can be ascertained, 117 properties. Of the 23 private supply samples however, three have main supplies also available in the premises, but two of the latter are used only in emergencies, the consumers preferring the "natural waters" for domestic use.

Three of the supplies are regularly chlorinated following series of samples taken by the Public Health Inspectors. Advice has been given to consumers on the amount of hypochlorite to be added, and the frequency of application. Many samples were taken and checked before this information could be determined.

The distribution of sources throughout the four parishes is as follows:-

Hatfield - 18 supplies serving 80 properties.  
North Mymms - 4 supplies serving 20 properties.  
Northaw - 1 supply serving 17 properties.  
Essendon - Nil.

A total of 42 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, of these 8 were unsatisfactory. Experience seems to indicate that well and borehole waters are more susceptible to contamination following periods of excessive rainfall, no doubt caused by surface contamination.



Following is a list of independent supplies and number of samples taken (bacteriological) during the year:-

	<u>No. of sources</u>	<u>No. of Dwellings Supplied</u>	<u>No. of Samples taken</u>
Astwick	1	2	1
Coopers Green	3	6/1/1	9
Cromer Hyde (Upper)	1	2/1	1
Essendon (Hatfield Parish)	1	2	1
Mill Green	2	2	3
Newgate Street	2	12/3	2
North Mymms	4	11/5/2/1	8
Northaw	1	17	1
Roe Hyde	2	6/1	5
Stanborough	4	32/1/1/1	4
Symondshyde	1	6	5
Woodside	2	2/1	2
Lemsford (Watercress beds)	-	-	-
	<u>24</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>42</u>

Connections to Main Supply:

1, 2 and 3 School Cottages, Newgate Street.

Towards the end of the year the occupiers of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 School Cottages, Newgate Street were deprived of their water supply because of an obscure fault in the piping system from the Ponsbourne Park Village supply. The Agent for the properties was persuaded to connect each house to the main, and so all of the ten houses originally dependent on the Village supply are now on the main, with one exception.

Bullens Green Lane - Nos. 35-61 (odd numbers)

Twelve of the above thirteen dwellings were connected to the main water supply during the year, and each now has a domestic supply over a sink.

Previously two standpipes served the terraces. This improvement was facilitated by the service of Section 138 notices under the Public Health Act, 1936 and a grant was made available to the owners concerned by the Council.

The occupiers were most grateful for this amenity, since water had to be carried individually over some distance previously.

Rainfall.

The following information has been obtained from the Lee Valley Water Company regarding rainfall in the Hatfield district:-



"Rainfall for the year was well above average. At Hatfield Pumping Station, Bishops Rise, it was a wet year, 32.1 inches were recorded compared with approximately 22 inches in 1959. 21.86 inches were recorded the previous year at the North Mymms Pumping Station. The wettest month was October with 5.53 inches and the driest was April with 0.59 inches."

#### DRAINAGE:

Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 47.

35 to 61, Bullens Green Lane - 13 Dwellings.

Conversions from earth pails to water closets and main drainage.

It is a pleasure to report that all of the above thirteen dwellings, during the year, were provided with W.Cs and connected to main drainage. Thirteen earth pails were abolished and one large cesspool taking waste water only was also abolished.

Four completely new brick built W.C. apartments were provided to replace remote wooden shed types housing earth pails.

Each of the owners concerned was served with a notice under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 and the Council made a grant towards the costs of conversions.

Water supply, direct from the main, was also installed in each house, as noted under "Water Supply."

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

The problem of sewage disposal for the Northern Hatfield area remained unresolved and there was still considerable difficulty in producing a good effluent from the Mill Green Sewage Disposal Works.

The Council were notified during the year that the Minister was prepared to consider a scheme for the extension and modernisation of the Mill Green Works and the Council instructed its Consulting Engineers to prepare an outline scheme.

Application was made to the County Council for planning consent, but this was refused. An appeal was registered and the holding of the Public Inquiry into this and the engineering aspects of the scheme is awaited.

The small disposal works at Northaw went out of commission when connection to the new sewer was made in May and a contract was let for the dismantling and demolition



of these and also the disused Welham Green works.

### Sewerage Schemes.

The small scheme for Bullens Green Lane was completed.

The relief sewer from the old outfall sewer to the new Cuffley Brook sewer was laid to overcome the occasional flooding in the Brookside estate area caused by surcharge during heavy storms.

The finishing of the Contract for phases III and IV saw the completion of the whole Cuffley sewerage scheme and brought main drainage to Northaw Village.

These schemes enabled 145 properties formerly on cesspools and 12 properties with earth pail sanitation to connect to the main sewer during the year. The Council decided that they would cease to operate the free cesspool emptying and earth pail collection service after a period of six months for all properties where main sewers were available.

An agreement was made with the Cheshunt U.D.C. permitting them to drain part of the Goffs Oak area into the Cuffley Brook sewer.

The Development Corporation carried out drainage works at the Ryde in preparation for housing development.

The Town Centre sewers were taken over as public sewers by the Council.

### Future Schemes.

Tenders were accepted for schemes of sewerage at Dixons Hill Road, at Bell Bar and Welham Green, North Mymms and at Wellfield Road, Hatfield.

The Minister authorised the advertisement of tenders for the sewerage of Lemsford Village.

### Repairs and Breakdown.

Emergency repairs due to broken pipes had to be undertaken on the Brookmans Park outfall in Peplins Way and as a result of investigations on the site, a further length of this sewer is scheduled for re-laying during 1961.

The Nast Hyde sewage pumping station was put out of action for five days by flooding of the pump well caused by malicious damage to the machinery.



## Cesspool Emptying.

A new cesspool/gully emptying machine was put into service in June. As a result of the reduction in the number of cesspools, the contract for gully emptying in private streets was ended and the work undertaken by direct labour.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES:

A contract was entered into for the Town Centre public conveniences and work was well advanced at the end of the year.

The County Council refused planning permission for the proposed public convenience site at Brookmans Park. Efforts to find a satisfactory alternative site failed and an appeal against the County's decision was registered.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

This was a difficult year and considerable overtime had to be worked to maintain the weekly collection. An addition of two men to the collecting staff was authorised and two large capacity continuous loading refuse vehicles placed on order for delivery at the end of 1961.

The Council agreed in principle to the institution of a bonus scheme and called for a detailed scheme for further consideration. These measures will overcome the rather unsatisfactory position obtaining in 1960.

## REFUSE DISPOSAL:

Permission was granted to the St. Albans Sand and Gravel Company, subject to safeguarding conditions for the controlled tipping of refuse at the Roe Hyde gravel workings.

## ROAD ACCIDENTS:

There were 211 road accidents involving personal injury, 320 people being injured and 17 killed during the year.

## HOUSING:

The Council built 23 bungalows for elderly people and 22 houses during the year and in addition 171 private houses were erected in the district, mostly in the Cuffley area.

There was a steady completion of houses in the Oxlease area for the Development Corporation.

The Council decided on a programme for the modernisation of its pre war houses including hot water installations and lavatory basins in all houses without these facilities. Approval was given to the detailed plans for bathroom



additions to the pre war elderly people's flats.

The improvements at Holwell Manor Cottages, Essendon, including cesspool drainage and bathrooms, were completed. Grants towards the provision of standard amenities were approved in respect of 22 private properties.

(a) Houses demolished.

1. In clearance areas	NIL
2. As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17, Housing Act, 1957	47

(b) Unfit houses closed ... 6

(c) Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied:-

1. After informal action by local authority	121
2. After formal notice under Section 9, Housing Act, 1957	NIL

(d) Unfit houses in temporary use ... NIL

(e) Purchase of Houses by Agreement:-

Houses in clearance areas <u>other</u> than those included in confirmed clearance areas or Compulsory Purchase Orders	8
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Note: Item (a) 2 = "Skimpans", Station Road, North Mymms.  
 The Hut, No.2 Caravan Site, The Hut rear of "Midway" and Shed, No.1 Caravan Site, all of Lemsford Track.  
 Marshmoor Bungalow, Huggins Lane, Welham Green = 5  
 1st Right of Way. Nos. 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 = 5  
 2nd Right of Way. Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 = 8  
 3rd Right of Way. Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 7, 9, 11 and 13. 1, 3, 5, 16, 18 and 20 = 17  
 4th Right of Way. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 = 8  
 5th Right of Way. Nos. 2, 4, 6 and 8 = 4  
47

Item (b) = "Skimpans", Station Road, North Mymms.  
 The Hut, No.2 Caravan Site, The Hut rear of "Midway" and Shed, No.1 Caravan Site, all of Lemsford Track.  
 Marshmoor Bungalow, Huggins Lane, Welham Green, The Hut, Cubitts Yard, Marshmoor., 20 Beaconsfield Road, Hatfield = 6.

Item (e) = Batterdale, Nos. 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34 and 34a = 8.



## Rent Act, 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair.

Surprisingly, the number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair in 1960 was more than double that for 1959, there being 14 compared with 6. In each case the Public Health Inspectors checked the listed items of defects, as specified by the tenants, and in most cases deleted odd items as not being suitable for inclusion, before recommending the issue of Certificates of Disrepair. The owner or agent, upon being notified of the Council's proposal to issue such Certificate gave formal undertakings to carry out the complete works in 10 instances.

A great deal of repair work has been done to properties in the Garden Village, but external painting was severely retarded because of incessant rain over many months.

From the operation of the Act in 1957, until 31st December, 1960, fifty-two applications had been dealt with. Of this number 90% of the dwellings are on one private estate.

## Housing Act, 1957 - Improvement Grants.

During the year 25 applications were approved for grants to improve older types of dwellings by the provision of modern amenities etc. In every case at least two visits were made to the premises to ensure that the appropriate Housing and Public Health requirements were satisfied.

It is interesting to note that of the 239 applications received since the inception of the grant scheme, 70% were in respect of tenanted dwellings, as opposed to owner-occupied.

### INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA:

The following is a summary of the visits made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year:-

#### Public Health Acts:

		<u>Total</u>
Complaints investigated	101	
Houses, Primary Inspections	72	
Re-visits re. above	146	
Moveable Dwellings	127	
Infectious Diseases	101	
Schools	9	
Cinemas and Public Halls	21	
Workplaces	2	
Rivers, streams and Ditches	24	
Drainage	200	
Cesspools	87	
Dirty and Verminous Premises	<u>3</u>	893 c/f



Public Health Acts: (continued)

b/f

Total  
893

Flies, Insects, etc.	9
Water Supplies	66
Stables and Piggeries	27
Keeping of Animals	43
Vacant Land and Dumps	46
Smoke Observations	112
Boilerhouses	43
Sundry Nuisances	120
Music and Dancing Licences	<u>1</u>

467  
1360

(Note: 69 Notices under the Public Health Acts were served during the year, one of which was statutory).

Housing Acts:

Houses, Primary Inspections	59
Re-visits re. above	112
Overcrowding	3
Council House applicants	8
Improvement Grants	179
Certificates of Disrepair	<u>105</u>

466

(Note: 4 informal notices under the Housing Act, 1957 were served during the year).

Factories Act:

Factories with Power	27
Factories without Power	14
Outworkers Premises	<u>4</u>

45

Food and Drugs Act:

Slaughterhouses	176
Butchers Shops	67
Food Preparing Rooms	38
Fishmongers	26
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	56
Grocers and Other Food Shops	192
Fried Fish Shops	1
Bakehouses	12
Licensed Premises	14
Restaurants and Kitchens	109
Factory Canteens	34
Public Market and Food Stalls	182
Other Food Premises	10
School Canteens	6
Food Inspection	27
Dairies and Milk Shops	8
Ice Cream Premises and Vehicles	51
Water Cress Beds	<u>6</u>

1015  
2886

c/f

	<u>Total</u>
b/f	2886

(Note: 23 informal notices were served under the Food and Drugs Act during the year)

Shops Acts:

Pet Animals Act	3	
Inspections	2	
Mobile Shops	<u>37</u>	42

Pests Act:

Business Premises - Primary	34	
Revisits	11	
Private Dwellings - Primary	1	
Local Authority Properties	<u>2</u>	48

Miscellaneous Visits	340	
Interviews	<u>84</u>	<u>424</u>
Total number of visits made		<u>3400</u>

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

Food and Drugs Act, 1955:

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 to 1954:

There is one pasteurising plant in the district licensed by the Hertfordshire County Council.

The following licences were issued by the Rural District Council during the year:-

Dealers licences authorising one of the special designations:-

Pasteurised	...	...	9
Sterilised	...	...	5
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	5

Supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation:-

Pasteurised	...	...	7
Sterilised	...	...	7
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	7

Ice Cream:

Thirty-four samples of ice cream were taken during the



year and submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological examination. The majority of samples taken were wrapped, as sold to the public, the remainder were sliced from large blocks. The samples represented the products of six manufacturers.

A small series of failures was recorded against one manufacturer's product, all taken from mobile vehicles. A number of check samples were taken and at the same time temperature records were taken from the ice boxes, one of which recorded 28° F., being the maximum permitted under the Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations. Inspection was made of the sterilisation methods and general cleanliness of the van and it was proved beyond doubt that carelessness on the part of the servers was responsible for the failure.

Following is a summary of results obtained:-

<u>Place of Sampling</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Provisional Grade</u>				
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	
Mobile Vehicles	15	3	2	4	24
Shops	8	-	-	-	8
Restaurants	2	-	-	-	2
	<u>25</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>34</u>
Percentage	73.5%	8.8%	5.9%	11.8% =	100%

#### Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses.

At the commencement of the year two slaughterhouses were licensed in the Rural District, i.e. B.G.King, White Lodge Farm, Bell Bar and T. Butler & Son, Fore Street, Hatfield. Killing took place usually on two days a week at each of the premises. A total of 158 visits were made during the year for meat inspection purposes and 100% of the animals slaughtered were examined, i.e. carcasses and offal.

The accompanying table shows that the following numbers of animals were slaughtered:- Cattle 150, Calves 1, Sheep 614 and Pigs 1385.

During the year three cases of Cysticercosis were found in the heads of cattle, all in the external masseter muscle. In each case the heads and tongues were condemned and the entire carcasses and all offal were removed to cold storage for retention at temperatures of not more than 14° F for 14 days, or not more than 20° F for 21 days, as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.



Tuberculosis in carcasses, as expected, decreased further during the year, and the incidence is negligible compared with even ten years ago, thanks to the attested herd programme throughout the Country.

Altogether 1383 lbs. of meat and offal were condemned as unfit in the Slaughterhouses, the most common conditions being pneumonia (lungs) parasitic livers, flukes, abscesses etc.

One Slaughterhouse, that of T. Butler & Son, Fore Street, closed in September, the new requirements of the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958 could not be met satisfactorily and so in common with many more throughout the Country, slaughtering ceased.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Cattle excluding Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed and inspected	-	150	1	614	1385
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:-</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	32	-	32	265
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	-	21.33%	-	5.21%	12.05%
<u>Tuberculosis only:-</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	1	-	-	22
Percentage of the number inspected with tuberculosis	-	.67%	-	-	1.69%
<u>Cysticercosis:-</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	3	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected with a Cysticercus infection	-	2%	-	-	-
Amounts condemned as unfit for human consumption	-	360 lbs	-	60 lbs	963 lbs



## Slaughter of Animals Act:

Three Slaughtermen, resident in the District, were licensed by the Council to kill and dress carcasses. A fourth is licensed by a neighbouring authority and is authorised to slaughter in this district.

## Foods condemned at Shops, etc., and meat other than at Slaughterhouses.

<u>Tins</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>Tins</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
21	Corned Beef	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	Blackcurrants	25 $\frac{3}{4}$
2	Stewed Steak	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	Evaporated Milk	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
1	Ox Tongue	6	3	Cream	1
1	Sheep Tongue	$\frac{3}{4}$	3	Plums	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
4	Skinless Ham	44 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	Pilchards	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
2	Mild Cured Ham	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	Apricot Pulp	162
6	Soup	4	5	Pineapple	16 $\frac{1}{4}$
38	Luncheon Meat	17	2	Marmalade	4
29	Pigs Kidneys	29	15	Tomatoes	27 $\frac{1}{4}$
6	Beans	3	128	Peaches	125 $\frac{1}{2}$
2	Rice Pudding	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	11	Frozen Eggs	154
5	Peas	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	Salmon	$\frac{1}{2}$
3	Strawberries	3	3	Oranges	2
7	Grapefruit	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	1	Baby Food	$\frac{1}{4}$
-	Beef	208	-	Sheeps Plucks	80
-	3 Legs of Lamb	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	Pigs Plucks	43
-	$\frac{1}{2}$ Leg of Pork	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	Lambs Heads	120
2	Boxes Peppermints	28	10	Bottles Tomato Sauce	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
1	Box Wine Gums	14	5	Bottles Mustard	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
23	Jars Pickles	10	14	Bottles Coffee Essence	9
17	Jars Chutney	6 $\frac{3}{4}$		Total	<u>1348<math>\frac{1}{2}</math> lbs</u>

## Food Premises:

The number of food shops now operating in Hatfield Rural District is as follows:-

Butchers	22
Bakehouses	3
Bakers Shops	10
Cafes and Canteens	50
Ice Cream	37
Greengrocers and	
Fruiterers	26
Fishmongers and Fryers	8

## Market Food Staffs:

The open air market operates on Wednesday and Saturday of each week from the Market Square in the New Town Centre. The number of Food Stalls has diminished; there are no butchers or fishmongers now compared with three and one respectively 2



years ago. Regular visits are made to the few remaining green-grocers and fruiterers etc., to see that conditions required by the Food Hygiene Regulations are complied with.

#### Mobile Food Shops:

It is always difficult to keep track with this type of food vendor. There are no requirements for registration with a local authority, even with ice cream. Vehicles ply to and from neighbouring districts and it will be appreciated that in a rural environment a complete knowledge of them all is difficult.

However, in the light of all the circumstances a determined effort was made to inspect all vehicles plying in the district. A list of proprietors, the nature of foods sold, and all particulars covered by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, e.g. cleanliness, repair, wrapping, hot water and in the case of ice cream, temperatures of cold stores, sterilising agents etc., was recorded and retained for reference.

Different conditions apply of course to certain vehicles according to the nature of business; a greengrocer would not be expected to compare with a grocer or ice cream vendor on a number of points.

Altogether, 21 mobile food vehicles were found and inspected, 8 of which were ice cream vans. Of the others, four were classified as excellent, one very good, two good, two fair and two as poor. In 13 cases sink/wash basins, with hot water, was provided.

A number of improvements were carried out as a result of discussion with the proprietors, including sinks with hot water, and two were persuaded to paint the vehicles externally. Co-operation between vendors and the Public Health Inspectors has been good.

#### Transport Cafes:

With two busy trunk roads traversing the rural district from north to south, one would expect to find transport cafes adjacent. There are in fact six of these, all of which are visited regularly. I have been surprised to find such a good standard of kitchen accommodation and amenities in these generally. Two kitchens have been completely rebuilt during the year, and a third is in process of being rebuilt, after pressure from the Health Department.

Three of the establishments provide sleeping accommodation for lorry drivers, with beds for 4, 5 and 41 persons respectively, the latter having bath with hot and cold, 5 wash basins with hot and cold, 3 W.Cs., in addition to staff amenities and central heating. The condition of the



dormitories, bedding, cubicles, floors, etc., and general maintenance is commendable, considering the daily influx of customers.

The total seating capacity for meals in the six establishments is approximately 324 and will, perhaps, give some indication of the scope for catering among transport drivers in this district.

Improvements are still required in some cases, but generally the standard is quite good.

#### CLEAN AIR ACT:

During 1960 the minor smoke problems such as existed in the rural district were further diminished. The furniture factory at Marshmoor, where wood waste is burned, was troublesome in phases for the first few months of the year, but since modifications to the filters and water jets were completed in August, there appears to have been little cause for complaint. Certainly the previous cause of objections, i.e. the deposition of wood ash over the neighbourhood, has been eliminated and I believe the problem generally has at last been solved.

From the public health offices, overlooking the Hatfield railway station, there is first hand evidence that the emission of dark smoke from the locomotives is negligible compared with 2/3 years ago, thanks to the utilisation of diesel engines.

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937:

Number of Factories on the Register	...	118
Number of Inspections made	...	41
Number of notices served as result of notifications from H.M. Inspector of Factories	... ..	9
Number of defects remedied	... ..	9

#### Defects found:

Ineffective drainage of floors	...	-
Unsuitable sanitary conveniences	...	-

#### Factories:

The number of established factories in the district is as follows:-

Factories <u>with</u> mechanical power (where Section 7 of the Factories Act, 1937 is enforced by local authority	... ..	102
---	--------	-----



Factories without mechanical power (where  
Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 of the  
Factories Act, 1937 are enforced by local  
authority ... .. 16

## AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE) PROVISIONS ACT, 1956:

Under the above legislation, the Local Authority are required to visit farms etc., for the purpose of ascertaining that sanitary conveniences are adequate for persons employed thereon. No doubt the circumstances particularly calling for the need are the seasonal occupations, i.e. hop picking, fruit picking and potato lifting, etc. However, forty-one farms were visited in the rural district as the result of which eleven letters were written to the occupiers requiring appropriate sanitary conveniences to be provided or made available.

## PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT:

The Hertfordshire County Council, as licensing authority for music and dancing, require information in places of entertainment in County districts. Such places are visited annually by the Public Health Inspectors for this purpose and recommendations submitted to the County Licensing Officer.

## NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960:

This Act came into operation on 27th November, 1960.

### Noise Nuisance.

Under Section 1, noise or vibration which would amount to a nuisance at common law becomes a statutory nuisance which can be dealt with under Part III of the Public Health Act, 1936. Under this procedure, local authorities will be able to require the abatement of a noise or vibration by the service of an abatement notice on the person causing the nuisance or on the owner or occupier of premises on which it arises. If the notice is not complied with it can be enforced by proceedings in a Magistrates Court.

Apart from action by a local authority, three or more occupiers of land or premises, who are aggrieved by a noise or vibration may make a complaint to a Magistrate.

The Act does not apply to noise or vibration caused by aircraft, which are subject to other statutory controls, nor to noise or vibration caused by statutory undertakers in the exercise of their powers. In the case of noise or vibration caused in the course of a trade or business, it is a defence in any proceedings to show that the best practical means have been used for preventing it.



## Loudspeakers in Streets.

Section 2 deals with the use of loudspeakers in streets. It prohibits their use for any purpose between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m. except in the special circumstances defined, i.e. for police, fire brigade, local authority, transport undertakings used by the public, in cases of emergency, etc., and at any other time between noon and 7 p.m. a loudspeaker fixed to a vehicle used for the sale of perishable foodstuffs may be operated to announce the commodities are on sale; the loudspeaker, however, is not to be so operated as to give reasonable cause for annoyance to persons in the vicinity. The penalty for the operation of a loudspeaker in contravention of Section 2 is a fine not exceeding £10. "Loudspeaker" includes a megaphone and any other device for amplifying sound.

## RODENT CONTROL:

The number of visits made by the Council's Rodent Operative during 1960 in connection with infestations and surveys at dwellinghouses, trade premises and farms etc., was 1532. The accompanying table is a breakdown of visits made under the various headings as requested by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Thirty-three annual contracts were agreed for regular treatments during the year, the great majority of which were agricultural premises. The Chief Public Health Inspector visited each one, assessed the work involved, and agreed the amount of contract with the persons concerned. The total income to the Council therefrom was £427.7s.8d.

Surveys of the Rural District sewers were carried out both in the Spring and Autumn as requested by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Pre-baiting on manhole benches was first undertaken and where "takes" were shewn, poison was laid in quantities estimated to eliminate the rat population. Although tests were made on all sections of sewers, infestations as usual were confined to the older systems.

	<u>Local</u> <u>Authority</u>	<u>Type of Property</u> <u>Dwelling</u> <u>Houses</u>	<u>Agri-</u> <u>cultural</u>	<u>Business</u> <u>etc.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Properties found to be infested by RATS and treated ...	10	156	29	48	243
Number of treatments (including re-treatments) ...	29	445	330	139	943



	<u>Local</u> <u>Authority</u>	<u>Type of</u> <u>Dwelling</u> <u>Houses</u>	<u>Property</u> <u>Agri</u> <u>cultural</u>	<u>Business</u> <u>etc.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Properties found to be infested by MICE and treated ...	-	24	14	19	57
Number of treatments (including re-treatments) ...	-	70	28	61	159
Number of visits recorded by Rodent Operative ...	46	908	371	207	1532

The above figures do not include bi-annual treatments of the Rural District sewers.

#### DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION:

##### Premises treated:-

Ants	14	Flies	6
Beetles	4	Gnats	1
Bed Bugs	6	Spiders	1
Cockroaches	1	Silver Fish	1
Crickets	1	Maggots	1
Earwigs	10	Woodworm	27
Fleas	3	Wasps Nests	207

Council houses inspected on change of tenancy for vermin/woodworm, etc. ... 52

#### Wasps Nests - Extermination.

For the second year running an exceptional number of residents in the district appealed to the Health Department for assistance in dealing with Wasps Nests. Altogether 207 were destroyed, compared with 268 in 1959, 23 in 1958 and 34 in 1957.

The wasp nuisance seems related to weather conditions prevailing in the Spring and Summer. The absence of cold spells in the Spring of 1959 and 1960 gave warning of busy times to come in the Summer for Mr. Lawrence the Rodent Officer, who dealt with the problem extremely well.

#### Woodworm Infestation.

Undoubtedly woodworm infestation is on the increase. Treatment is not easy since the boring habits of the larvae penetrate several inches into the wood and insecticide, therefore, must be pressure forced along the "runs". Often in advanced cases of infestation the most sensible thing to do is to remove the affected timber and destroy by burning as the life cycle will continue if infested wood is left in the garden, etc. Council houses on change of tenancy are inspected for this purpose and the necessary treatment carried out.



WELWYN      RURAL      DISTRICT  
                 COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health and of the  
Public Health Inspector for 1960.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor, Water Engineer and Public Health Inspector:

P. B. HAWLEY, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk:

A. A. W. CALLABY.



## WELWYN SECTION

### Section A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	5,232
Population (mid year 1960 as estimated by the Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	6,820
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	2,250
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	£88,841
Net product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£361

#### Social Conditions:

The District is mainly agricultural and residential in character, the small town of Welwyn where the old Great North Road crosses the River Mimram being the natural centre of the area.

The two parishes of Ayot St. Lawrence and Ayot St. Peter remain sequestered and remote, although only 24 miles north of London, while parts of Digswell, Welwyn and Woolmer Green have developed as residential areas.

The District comprises some of the best undulating wooded agricultural country in Hertfordshire much of which lies within a designated green belt area which preserves its rural charm.

#### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	35	33	68
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Number	76	69	145
Rate per 1000 population			21.2
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			4.1
STILLBIRTHS:			
Number	2	-	2
Rate per 1000 total live and still births			13.6
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	78	69	147
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	2	4	6
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)			34.0

Total

MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion):

Number of deaths

NIL

Rate per 1000 total live and still births

NIL

Deaths:

The following tables give an analysis of the various causes of death which have occurred, or are required to be treated as having occurred, in the district during the year. The rise in the number of deaths compared with the previous year is due to more deaths from Heart Disease and cerebral vascular accidents, both ailments affecting particularly the aged.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past 5 years</u>
Tuberculosis ... ..	-	-	-	-
Cancer ... ..	5	4	9	11
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis ... ..	8	7	15	9
Heart Diseases ... ..	11	11	22	20
Other circulatory diseases	3	2	5	4
Pneumonia ... ..	2	1	3	1
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases ... ..	-	-	-	1
Gastritis ... ..	1	-	1	-
Diabetes ... ..	-	-	-	-
Nephritis ... ..	1	-	1	-
Congenital Malformation	1	1	2	-
Road Traffic Accidents	1	-	1	2
Suicide ... ..	-	-	-	-
Other defined causes ... ..	2	7	9	7
	<u>35</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>68</u>	

Sites of Cancer

Respiratory ... ..	1
Alimentary tract and liver	4
Breast and Uterus ... ..	1
Others ... ..	3



# Comparison of Annual Rates:

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1956	16.0	0.88	14.0	8.7	1.05	9.1	10.8
1957	17.4	0.87	15.14	10.3	1.11	11.4	9.7
1958	21.6	0.87	18.8	13.6	1.11	15.1	15.0
1959	16.9	0.86	14.6	7.4	1.14	8.4	NIL
1960	21.2	0.85	18.0	9.9	1.18	11.7	41.4
England and Wales 1960			16.5			11.6	22.0

The high infant mortality rate for the year is probably fortuitous, wide fluctuations in the annual rate being liable to occur when the rate is dependent upon such small numbers. Of the six infants who died under the age of one year, three died shortly after birth from prematurity or congenital defects, one infant died as a result of accidental asphyxia, and the remaining two deaths were the result of respiratory infection.

## Section B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The personal health services throughout the district are administered by the Hertfordshire County Council. The Medical Officer of Health of the District, who is also the Divisional Medical Officer, supervises these services.

### CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

#### WELWYN (The Hill)

Infant Welfare	2 - 4 p.m. Friday
Ante and Post Natal	9 a.m. - 12 noon Thursday (1st only)
Dental	By Appointment

#### WOOLMER GREEN

The Mobile Infant Welfare Clinic attends at The Village Hall on the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 2 p.m.

### Nursing Services:

Two nurses undertake the domiciliary nursing, midwifery and health visiting of the district with occasional assistance from neighbouring areas in the outlying parishes.

Miss I.A.Green, Home Nurse/Midwife,  
1, The Crescent, Welwyn.

Miss M. Wray, Home Nurse/Midwife/Health Visitor,  
10, Dolesbury Drive, Welwyn.

Miss Wray attends the Infant Welfare Centre on Friday afternoons and the mobile clinic at Woolmer Green to advise mothers on all questions of infant welfare.

### School Health Service:

Children in the three prescribed age groups and at 8 years old were examined during the year. The Health Visitor regularly visits the schools to undertake the treatment of minor ailments and foot troubles while the special diagnostic and treatment sessions at Gooseacre Health Centre, Welwyn Garden City are available as required. Regular dental sessions were held on Tuesdays at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn Hill.

### Immunisation and Vaccination:

The number of infants and young children immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough during the year was very satisfactory, the injections being given by the family doctor



or at the child welfare clinic. Over 80% of infants are protected against diphtheria during their first year and the number of children vaccinated against smallpox continues to rise. Credit is due to the parents, doctors, nurses, teachers and voluntary workers supervising the health of young children in ensuring these high levels of protection. Further impetus has been given to the immunisation scheme by the use of multiple antigens giving protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus.

Poliomyelitis vaccine is available to children over six months of age at the welfare clinic under identical facilities as with the other preventive inoculations. In February the Ministry extended the age for poliomyelitis vaccination to 40 years, and a fourth injection has now been authorised to be given not earlier than a year after the third to children aged 5 - 11 years inclusive.

#### Old People's Welfare:

The Welwyn Jubilee Old Folks Club with a membership of over 100 meets regularly at the centre in the High Street with an increasing range of interests and activities for the members. The various excursions and arrangements for annual holidays are greatly appreciated by the members while the fortnightly chiropody sessions are well attended.

A meals on wheels service for the housebound elderly and handicapped was inaugurated during the year by Mrs. Simmonds and the local branch of the W.V.S., some 15-20 persons being provided with a hot meal twice weekly. The newly formed Welwyn District branch of the Association for the Welfare of the Handicapped also arranges visiting and practical aid to several handicapped elderly persons.

The Woolmer Green Old Persons Club, Honorary Secretary Mr. E.H. Chirgwin, has had an active year maintaining the total membership of about 40 with regular meetings on Friday afternoons.

#### Home Help Service:

Local arrangements are under the supervision of Mrs. J.M. Cosgreave the Divisional Home Help Organiser at Gooseacre Health Centre, Cole Green Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Telephone: Welwyn Garden 22190. The service has been well maintained during the year but there is an urgent need for women in each parish willing to undertake part-time home help work so that the demands on this essential service can be fully met. The service is of particular assistance to the elderly throughout the District, and in maintaining the home in times of sudden illness and confinement.

### Hospitals:

The district is served by its own hospital, the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, which has forty beds for general medical and surgical cases. Within easy reach are the larger hospitals at Hitchin, Hertford and St. Albans, where full diagnostic and specialist facilities are available. The majority of maternity patients needing hospital confinement are admitted to the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital, but maternity beds are available also at Hitchin and St. Albans.

The Danesbury Hospital under the Barnet Group Hospital Management Committee is a unit providing long stay care for multiple sclerosis and allied chronic disorders.

### Executive Council:

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is responsible for providing a general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. Mr. A.E.Short, the Clerk of the Council, has offices at 156-158, Fore Street, Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 3195).

### Ambulance Service:

Requests for ambulance transport from hospitals, doctors and the general public in emergencies and at accidents are met by the staff and vehicles attached to the Welwyn Garden City Station, assisted by the Hospital Car Service.

### Welfare Foods:

Welfare Foods, i.e. National Dried Milk, Vitamin A and D Tablets, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice are sold at the Infant Welfare Centre on Fridays from 2 - 4 p.m.



## Section C - INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received during the year:-

Measles	2	Whooping Cough	1
Dysentery	7	Pneumonia	1
Scarlet Fever	2	Puerperal Pyrexia	3

No poliomyelitis or diphtheria occurred throughout the District during the year, the incidence of infectious diseases being again very light and calling for little comment. The dysentery notifications referred to mild infections in two families during the Spring.

### Tuberculosis:

Following a review of cases on the tuberculosis register the statistics for the year are as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>N/Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>N/Pul.</u>	
On register at 31st December, 1959 ... ..	20	2	20	4	46
Removals from the register during the year ...	1	-	2	-	3
Added to the register during the year ... ..	1	-	-	-	1
On register at 31st December, 1960 ... ..	20	2	18	4	44

The Chest Clinics at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans, and the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, undertake the treatment of cases in Welwyn and the southern part of the District, while cases from the Mardley Hill/Woolmer Green area attend Letchworth Clinic. Home visiting is maintained through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors and the Home Nurses, and the special housing needs of each case are fully investigated.

B.C.G. Vaccination of children aged 13 years attending St. Mary's S.M. School was undertaken early in the year with a satisfactory acceptance rate.

## Section D - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLY:

On the 1st April, 1960, the control of the Welwyn Rural District Council's water undertaking was handed to the Lee Valley Water Company, Bishops Rise, Hatfield.

Since taking over control of the undertaking, the Lee Valley Water Company has continued to afford the public a potable supply of water, but during the early months of the Company's control complaints were received of inadequate supply in certain places where hitherto there had been a reasonable supply. I understand this was caused by the Company experimenting with its new sources of supply in order to assess how best to distribute the water to the benefit of the public.

Mr. R. Johnson, Waterworks Inspector, and Mr. H. Steppens, Plumber, were offered appointments with the Company in a similar capacity, and both accepted.

The officers of the new company at Stevenage have at all times been most co-operative, and there has been free exchange of information between us. This arrangement, however, covers only specific cases of inadequate supply and is no substitute for a Consumers Council or an arrangement whereby a local Authority is a constituent member of the Water Board.

### RAINFALL:

Readings of rainfall were taken during the year at the Rural Council's weather station, By-Pass Road, Welwyn. There was a measurable fall of rain on 165 days, yielding a total rainfall of 29.45" for the year. The heaviest fall, recorded on the 11th August, 1960, was 0.99". The wettest month was October with a fall of 5.42", and the driest month was March with a fall of 0.12".

The rainfall for 1959 was 20.45".

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

There have been no material changes in the collection and disposal arrangements during the year.

The scheme for Digswell Ward is complete and the Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government has carried out his investigations. (At the time of writing a tender has been approved and work should commence shortly).

The Fulling Mill scheme has been the subject of consul-



tations between the Welwyn Rural District Council and Hitchin Rural District Council, and agreement reached as to certain financial arrangements.

As the Welwyn Rural District Council have decided to discharge all their new schemes into sewers leading to the Rye Meads disposal works of the Middle Lee Drainage Board and discontinue the use of the Welwyn sewage disposal works, it will be necessary to lay a new link sewer from the existing Mill Lane Pumping Station to a sewer of the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council at Digswell. A scheme for this project has been prepared.

At the request of the Welwyn Garden City Development Corporation and with the consent of the Minister, a short length of the link sewer has already been laid through land at Digswell, being developed for housing purposes by the Development Corporation, so that no disturbance will be caused to the householders.

It is further proposed that Mardley Heath Ward and the Parish of Ayot St. Peter be put on main drainage and these schemes are in course of preparation.

An outline scheme for the drainage of the hamlet of Ayot St. Lawrence has been considered by the Ayot St. Lawrence Parish Meeting and rejected.

The Council still maintains a cesspool emptying service in that part of the area not served by the main drainage. Due to the heavy rainfall a number of emergency calls were answered when septic tanks and cesspools became flooded. During the year 1,105 services were given involving the removal of 1,593 $\frac{1}{4}$  loads. Figures for 1959 were 1,025 and 1,373 respectively.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

A satisfactory weekly collection has been maintained during the year.

The policy of the department is that this service and the cesspool service are kept going even if it means drawing men from other duties, as neglect in either service soon gives rise to complaints from the public.

A new karrier "Bantam" refuse freighter was purchased during the year. This vehicle is used on general duties and on refuse collection.

The refuse tip is becoming increasingly difficult to manage. There is a large percentage of paper in the refuse and the Chase-side mechanical shovel does not achieve adequate



consolidation with the result that the large refuse freighter often sinks into the tip surface which results in loss of time.

A report to Council is to be prepared on the subject of whether to discontinue use of the present refuse tip and change to a new tip, either inside or outside the Rural District boundaries.

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS:

The Council have continued to make "discretionary grants". Three grants in a total sum of £1,070 were made during the year.

The anticipated increase in "Standard" grant applications has not materialised and only six grants were made in the total sum of £692.0.0d.

Many useful properties throughout the country were condemned and demolished before the 1939 war which could have still been providing adequate homes for people, if such an incentive had been available then. This could have provided a great saving in money and land and reduced hardship to people who did not wish to be uprooted and planted in a new community.

#### INSPECTIONS OF DISTRICT:

The following is a list of miscellaneous Public Health visits carried out:-

Housing defects -	61	Moveable Dwellings	33
not Council houses		Public Health Act -	
Canteens	8	nuisances	20
Food Shops	40	Slaughterhouses	19
Cafes	17	Bakeries	12
Cesspools	17	Factories	40
Building Byelaws	285	Improvement Grants	67
Trade Effluent	4	Rodent Control	194

The most serious nuisances are those caused by overflowing cesspools, and it will be a splendid thing when the Council's main drainage schemes are finally implemented.

Conditions in the food shops and cafes are generally good and it is pleasing to note that the Public Health Inspector is not regarded as an enemy but as a person who may be able to offer useful advice.

#### MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION:

Use of the one private slaughterhouse in the district was discontinued during the year, and only a small quantity of meat was inspected.



The old scourge of tuberculosis in cattle has been largely cleared up.

The following are details of inspections made and seizures involved: -

19 Bovines,      30 Sheep,      33 Pigs.

Abscesses	3 Bovine livers
"	1 Bovine lung
Tuberculosis	1 Bovine lung
"	1 Pig head
Severe bruising	1 Bovine hindquarter
Mould	60 lbs. Australian frozen lamb livers.
Decomposition	15 lbs. Frozen Ox kidneys
	14 lbs. Cod fillets.
Rancidity	56 lbs Desiccated coconut

A new class of officer has been created who will be wholly employed in meat inspection. According to an examiner of the Royal Veterinary College the standard of the qualification will be at least as high as that held by qualified Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

#### HOUSING:

A total of 59 houses were constructed during the year, 35 by private enterprise and 24 bungalows by the Rural Council. In addition there were 40 private houses under construction.

